



Ken Wagner, Ph.D.
Commissioner

State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
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255 Westminster Street
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Enclosure 5d2
April 24, 2018

May 15, 2018

TO: Members of the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education

FROM: Ken Wagner, Ph.D., Commissioner 

SUBJECT: Approval of Necessity of School Construction: East Providence

The Council on Elementary and Secondary Education has as one of its responsibilities reviewing and certifying the need for school construction projects to be reimbursed through the school housing aid program and the SBA Capital Fund. Most large projects are supported by bonds and are comprehensive projects with major renovation and/or new construction components. Article 9 of the FY16 State Budget lifted the moratorium on school construction, created the School Building Authority (SBA) at the RI Department of Education, created the SBA Capital Fund, and changed the multi-stage Necessity of School Construction application to an annual process. Because of this, the Board will be asked to review and approve projects annually at the end of each fiscal year.

At this meeting, the Council is being asked to approve prioritized Major Projects and Fast Track Repairs. A chart summarizing East Providence School District's projects is provided in Attachment 1.

RECOMMENDATION: THAT, the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education approve the necessity of school construction projects totaling \$145,722,003 pursuant to 16-7-41.1 as follows (please note that when the applicable reimbursement share ratios are applied to the estimated total project costs noted below, the state share is expected to be \$79,272,770):

East Providence:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------|
| a. New Construction | |
| i. East Providence High School | \$135,581,800 |
| b. Fast Track Repairs | |
| i. Kent Heights Elementary | \$ 318,829 |
| ii. Myron Francis Elementary | \$ 194,158 |
| iii. Oldham Elementary | \$ 515,709 |
| iv. Orlo Avenue Elementary | \$ 124,277 |
| v. Whiteknact Elementary | \$ 35,952 |
| vi. Martin Middle School | \$ 4,028,780 |
| vii. Riverside Middle School | \$ 3,513,307 |
| viii. Career and Technical Center | \$ 1,409,191 |

SUMMARY: FY 2018 NECESSITY OF CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

| EAST PROVIDENCE SCHOOL DISTRICT | BRIEF DESCRIPTION | JUSTIFICATION | FY 2018 AID SHARE RATIO* | ESTIMATED PROJECT COST | STATE SHARE | STATE SHARE W/ INTEREST** |
|---------------------------------|--|--|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------|---------------------------|
| New Construction | This project includes the construction of a new High School for 1,600 students in the East Providence School District. The new building will replace and consolidate the existing, outdated High School and the Career Tech Center, as part of a districtwide masterplan. | The existing High School has more than \$11M in high priority deficiencies, as well as outdated systems that are not aligned with the district's educational program vision. The new High School will be a comprehensive facility that blends vocational and academic programs into a 21 st Century learning environment. | 54% | \$135,581,800 (Bond) | \$73,756,499 | \$104,733,611 |
| Districtwide Repairs | As part of the masterplan this project will also address repairs at the other East Providence School District facilities, including: Kent Heights Elementary, Myron Francis Elementary, Oldham Elementary, Orlo Avenue Elementary, Whiteknact Elementary, Martin Middle School, Riverside Middle School, and the Career Tech Center. | This project includes health and safety improvements, including: roof replacement; exterior envelope repairs; hazardous materials abatement; HVAC improvements; electrical and plumbing repairs, life safety improvements, accessibility repairs, site improvements, and other building system improvements that affect student and staff health and safety. | | \$10,140,203 (Capital Reserve) | \$5,516,270 | \$5,516,270 |

* State share ratio is based on FY2018 calculation. District may be eligible for additional reimbursement through bonus incentives.

** Only bonds financed through RIHEBC are eligible for reimbursement on interest. East Providence intends to pay for the projects out of both bond proceeds and capital reserve funds as detailed above.